

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, lines 2-4, replace the text in its entirety with the following:

The present application is a divisional application of Serial No. 09/881,710 filed June 18, 2001, which claims priority to U.S. Provisional Application Serial No. 60,212,129 filed June 16, 2000, the entire contents of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Page 5, lines 17-18, replace the text in its entirety with the following:

Figure 1: A. Schematic representation of DEN polyprotein maturation. B. Schematic representation of recombinant prM (SEQ ID NO:10) and E proteins, proteins.

Page 7, lines 4-12, replace the text in its entirety with the following:

Figure 6: The sequence of the plasmid p[95-114]EGFP[206-245] encompassing the DEN-1 virus strain BR/90 encoding the C protein residues 95 to 114 upstream of the EGFP gene, and the sequence of the DEN-1 virus strain FGA/89 encoding the M protein residues 206 to 245 downstream of the EGFP gene, in the pEGFP-N1 (SEQ ID NO:1-fusion protein; SEQ ID NOS:4, 5, 6, and 7-nucleotide sequences; SEQ ID NO:8-3' sequence of pEGFP-N1).

Figure 7: The sequence of the plasmid p[95-114][211-245] encompassing the DEN-1 virus strain BR/90 encoding the C protein residues 95 to 114 (amino acids 1-21 of SEQ ID NO:1; nucleotides 1-68 of SEQ ID NO:5) fused to the N-terminus of the sequence of the DEN-1 virus strain FGA/89 encoding the M protein residues 211 to 245 (amino acids 42-77 of SEQ ID NO:1; nucleotides 44-74 of SEQ ID NO:7 in the pEGFP-N1 (SEQ ID NOS:4 and 6; SEQ ID NO:9).

Page 7, line 17 through page 8, line 2, replace the text in its entirety with the following:

Figure 9: The regions of IS-98 ST1 strain of West Nile (WN) virus encoding the M Protein residues 215 to 255 are fused to the C-terminus of the [95-114]EGFP fusion construct. The sequence identity and similarity of M protein of DEN-1 virus strain FGA/89 (amino acids 37-77 of SEQ ID NO:1) and WN virus strain IS-98 ST1 (SEQ ID NO:27) are indicated.

Figure 10: Sequence similarity and identity of M protein between FGA/89 strain of DEN-virus and the residues 56 to 95 of CD72 protein (SEQ ID NOS:12 and 13), the BH2 domain of Bax protein (amino acids 12-32 of SEQ ID NO:12 and SEQ ID NO:14), and the other flaviviruses (amino acids 12-32 of SEQ ID NO:12 and SEQ ID NOS:15-26).

Figure 11: Sequence of plasmid p[95-114]EFGP[206-245]DEN-2 (amino acids 1-29 of SEQ ID NO:1, SEQ ID NOS:9 and 11; SEQ ID NOS:3, 4, 5, 6 and 7).

Page 8, lines 16-19: replace the text in its entirety with the following:

The inventors determined that the sequences (40 amino acids) of the DEN-1 and DEN- 2 M proteins are 83% identical as shown in the following alignment (SEQ ID NOS: 28 AND 29):

SVALAPHVGLGLETRTETWMSSEGAWKQIQQVETWALRHP	DEN-1 M ectodomain
----V----M-----HA-RI---I---	DEN-2 M ectodomain

Page 22, lines 12-23, replace the text in its entirety with the following:

It is expected that the 20 amino acid long sequence LETRTETWMSSEGAWKQIQQK of the M protein (amino acids 48-68 of SEQ ID NO:1) (FGA/89 polyprotein residues 217-236) bears significant homology with a region of the Bcl-2 protein family which includes pro-apoptotic proteins such as Bax, since [144-165]Bax *versus* the M sequence has 23% identity and 64% similarity. The [144-165]Bax region contains the Bcl-2 Homology domain number 2, termed BH2. (Swissprot access:Q07812).

It is expected that the N-terminal 39 amino acids SVALAPHVHLHLETRTETWMSSEGAWKQIQKVETWALRH of the M protein (SEQ ID NO:30) (FGA/89 polyprotein residues 206-244) share 40% identity with the 50 amino acid long sequence (residues 46 to 95) in the cytosolic domain (residues 1 to 95) at the N-terminus of B-CELL DIFFERENTIATION ANTIGEN LYB-2 (CD72), a type II membrane protein. (Swissprot access: P21855).

Page 25, lines 11-21, replace the text in its entirety with the following:

The deletion variants of the sequence M1 -> M40 of the DEN-2 ectodomain (SEQ ID NO:29):

1 10 20 30 40

SVALVPHVGMGLETRTETWMSSEGAWKHAQRIETWILRHP

included either the segment M1 -> M30 ([95-114]EGFP[M1 -> M30]DEN-2), the segment M1 -> M20 ([95-114]EGFP[M1 -> M20]DEN-2), the segment M10 -> M40 ([95-114]EGFP[M10 -> M40]DEN-2), the M20 -> M40 ([95-114]EGFP[M20 -> M40]DEN-2), the segment M10 -> M30 ([95-114]EGFP[M10 -> M30]DEN-2) or the segment M30 -> M40 ([95-114]EGFP[M30 -> M40]DEN-2). The deletion mutants of plasmid p[95-114]EGFP[206-245]DEN-2 are shown in Figure 12.

Page 37 (Abstract), after the last line, beginning on a new page, please insert the Sequence Listing appended hereto.